

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-2 (canceled).

3 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 26 wherein:

the inner tubular structure of the catheter shaft means defines at least one fluid aperture providing a fluid flow path ~~past~~ through the braided electrode means.

4 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim 3 further comprising:

an introduction system in fluid communication with the lumen means, the introduction system configured to provide a fluid material to the lumen means.

5 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim 4 wherein the lumen means is configured to guide the fluid media through the at least one fluid aperture.

6 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim 5 wherein the at least one fluid aperture is located so as to guide the fluid media ~~past~~ through the braided electrode means substantially to move blood away from the braided electrode means to lessen formation of coagulum.

7 (original). The ablation catheter of claim 4 wherein the fluid media comprises a conductive fluid media.

8 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim 7 whereby the conductive fluid media is configured to flow ~~past~~ through the at least one braided electrode means and conduct ablative energy to ~~[[a]]~~ the target tissue.

9 (original). The ablation catheter of claim 8 whereby the tissue is ablated by at least ohmic energy.

10 (original). The ablation catheter of claim 8 whereby the tissue is ablated by at least convection.

11 (original). The ablation catheter of claim 8 whereby the tissue is ablated by at least conduction.

12 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 26 wherein the fixed braided electrode means is exposed through at least one braided electrode aperture formed in the outer tubular structure and has having a length in the range of about 1 centimeter to about 10 centimeter.

13 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 26 wherein the ~~at least one braided electrode~~ means has a length in the range of about 1 centimeter to about 10 centimeters.

14 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 26 wherein the fixed braided electrode means extends about 60 degrees to about 180 degrees around the circumference of the catheter shaft means ~~at least one braided electrode aperture has a width in the range of about 60 degrees to about 180 degrees.~~

15 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 26 wherein the ~~at least one braided electrode~~ means generally defines an electrode surface that is recessed below the level of an outer surface of the outer tubular structure.

16 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 26 wherein the ~~at least one braided electrode~~ means generally defines an electrode surface that is generally flush with an outer surface of the outer tubular structure.

17 (canceled).

18 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 26 wherein the ~~at least one~~ braided electrode means is configured to at least partially contact the tissue during use.

19 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim ~~[[33]]~~ wherein the catheter shaft means defines a second lumen means.

20 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim 19 further comprising a control wire connected with the catheter shaft means and located within the second lumen means.

21 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim 20 wherein the control wire is precurved to manipulate the catheter shaft means such that the catheter shaft means forms a substantially circular shape.

22 (original). The ablation catheter of claim 21 wherein the substantially circular shape is adapted to conform to the inner shape of the pulmonary vein.

23 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim 19 wherein the ~~at least one~~ braided electrode means is connected with at least one corresponding wire adapted to connect with an ablation energy source.

24 (currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim 23 wherein the at least one wire is routed through the second lumen means.

25 (withdrawn, currently amended). The ablation catheter of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 26 wherein the ~~at least one~~ braided electrode means comprises at least a first braided electrode and a

second braided electrode, wherein the first braided electrode and the second braided electrode are each separately connected to at least one ablation energy source.

26 (currently amended). An ablation catheter comprising:

a fixed braided electrode means for forming an ablation lesion through contact with a target tissue;

catheter shaft means for locating the braided electrode means adjacent the target tissue, the catheter shaft means including an inner tubular structure and an outer tubular structure; and

lumen means for channeling a fluid media ~~past~~ through the braided electrode means,

wherein the fixed braided electrode means is sandwiched between the inner tubular structure and the outer tubular structure and extends around less than about 180 degrees of a circumference of the catheter shaft means.

27-33 (canceled).